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10 Oct. 44 4.2.2

(under) H-1

From: AG/000

To: SAINT WASHINGTON
SAINT LONDON
SAINT ISTANBUL
SAINT BEIROT

Subject: Report from Palestine.

Source: J-1

Date of Information: 10 Oct. 44

Evaluation: C-0

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

AG 019

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[] (X)

GX 964

10 Oct. 44

REPORT FROM PALESTINE

The following paragraphs are excerpts from a recent report from Palestine:

1. "A report, which is not confirmed from any other source, says that a member of the National Syrian Party in the Lebanon (this is a Fascist Party which has recently been permitted to resume its activities) has visited Palestine and tried to establish contact with groups of educated young extremists.

2. "A report is circulating among the Arabs to the effect that Haj Amin al-Husseini has left Germany for Switzerland. This information is said to be contained in a letter from Mium al-Madi, who is in Turkey, purporting to come from the Mufti himself. Emir Shakib Arslan is said to have escaped into Switzerland some time ago."

SECRET

FROM 32700.

Received 5:15 pm
12/1/45

No. J/3063.

30.11.44.

cd - 17-1-45 mce (pc)

Harith I. JI el MAHDI.

Attached is a copy of a report made by the Repatriation Officer of the Allied Commission.

I should be glad of your observations. In the meantime subject's repatriation to Palestine is being postponed.

32700/A only: If you have any adverse information, you may consider suggesting to the Allied Commission that subject should cease to be employed by them.

COPIES TO: 32700, 32700/A.

[] (X)

1. TAJI el FARUQI, Harith.
2. Born at HAMLE (Palestine) on 17th July 1918 (date in passport given as 20th May 1916 - subject claims that difference in dates is due to a clerical error).
3. Palestinian Arab.
4. In possession of Palestine Passport No. 113616 issued 17.1.1939. at JERUSALEM by the Department of Emigration. Validity extended until 9th January, 1945 by Swiss Legation in ADAM. 10 January 1944 (when in hiding?)
5. Moslem.
6. Father: Professor SULEIMAN TAJI el FARUQI, Suleiman ben Abdul Malek Street, HAMLE, Palestine. Lawyer and proprietor of the JAFFA daily paper "ALJAMI'A al ISLAMKIYA".

Mother: FANNIYYAH TAJI el FARUQI
Brothers: JAMAL " " "
HAIDER " " "
Sisters: RUDDLINA " " "
DUNIA " " "
JAIDA " " "

All the above are in Palestine.

7. Present address in Rome: 7 via S. TADDEO.
8. Attached are:-
 - a) Statement handed by subject to Inter Governmental Committee on Refugee Representative in ADAM last August, when he first requested that organisation to arrange for his repatriation.
 - b) Information given verbally by subject to I.G.C.R. Representative on 21st August 1944.

9. Brief History.

In general subject kept to the story as told in his original written expose to I.G.C.R. However, the following statements not mentioned by him previously were found to be of doubtful veracity:-

- a) Subject claims to have been granted a visa to tour Italy and Tripoli on a cycle a few months before Italy entered the war "just for the asking". He states that the formalities for the granting of a visa at the Italian Consulate General in London took five minutes and that no questions were asked.

b) When cycling through Italy (which took him about 25 days) he was not stopped or interrogated anywhere in spite of his not speaking a word of Italian at the time. Once the CGHa even got him back his passport which he had forgotten at a Hotel in SIENNA (?). Denied being in possession of any form of letter of recommendation from any influential Italian agencies or persons.

c) Can never remember the names of his contacts when in Tripoli or when in Italy, the only exceptions being:-

1) a certain FAGHRI bin FARAH, Librarian at the Tripoli Public Library, who introduced him to other TRIPOLITANIAN Notables (names not remembered).

> 2) SAAD DIR ABU... LATIF, financial secretary to the MUFTI.

3) An Iraqi, ASHAR (unable to remember full name) still in ROME, and with whom he lived when in "hiding" from the Germans. Does not know his present whereabouts.

4) A Syrian... a doctor (of Philosophy?) who went North with the MUFTI (unable to remember full name).

5) ALI FIRJANI and Mustapha... (the former ex "mudur" at the Italian Embassy in CAIRO, the latter ex "mudur" to the Italian Consulate General) both of whom have applied for repatriation to Libya. ALI FIRJANI lent subject 35,000 Lire (\$350 at the time) when the latter was in "hiding" to be repaid by his father (subject's) at an unspecified date.

d) In his written statement subject does not mention the fact that he was engaged by the MUFTI as "Radio B. ACTION" Broadcaster of political and news comments up to the Armistice at a salary of 4,000 Lire a month.

e) His "hiding" consisted of giving English lessons and visiting the S. Giorgio Rosing Club every day. Claims never to have been asked for his papers when in the streets. His pupils were allegedly:-

- 1) Signora PAOLI, an artist, 4 Via Rino Oxila.
- 2) BACTI (cannot remember the address).
- 3) PELLEGRINI (cannot remember the address).

Subject claims to have earned 25 - 40 lire per lesson (between 2,500 - 3,000 lire a month). Signora PAOLI allegedly got him pupils. He also claims to have received a monthly subsidy of 300 lire from the Swiss Legation.

10. An interesting point is that subject stated that his father (according to FARUHI's statement an enemy of the MUFTI) disapproved of his tour through Italy and Libya and only sent him a very small sum of money to TRIPOLI, not enough to allow him to proceed on his journey.

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11. Subject is at present working for the Industry Sub-Commission, N.C. at a salary of 4,000 lire a month.

12. General Impression: Effeminate and weak, the type of person who would launch himself into some national movement. His replies are not always spontaneous. Very nervous during interrogation. Mouth completely dry.

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EXPOSE BY TAJI EL FARUQI.

TO I.G.C.R.

In the month of February 1940, I left England, where I was for the purpose of study at Cambridge; for Palestine. I explained to the Italian Consul in London that my intention of cycling through Italy and Libya was for the purpose of acquainting myself with the two countries; since I had the intention of taking over journalism with my father - proprietor of "AL JAMI AL ISLAHIYYA" daily paper - JAFFA.

Thus with the visa I cycled from the Italian frontier, VENTIMIGLIA, the whole length of Italy by the eastern coast road (S.S. 18) to SYRACUSA via GENOVA, ROMA, NAPLES, etc. and from SYRACUSA I sailed to TRIPOLI, and there reported immediately to the British Consul. My stop in TRIPOLI was mainly for some further funds from Home. Postal connections were then confused, and I had to wait about a month and a half before receiving the first letter. In the letter, my father asked me to give up the cycling idea, as they were in touch with the authorities in JAFFA to communicate to the Consul in TRIPOLI to arrange my departure for PALESTINE. A few weeks later, near the LIDO DI TRIPOLI, I was stopped by two motor-cyclists, an Italian and a Libyan, and taken where I was subjected to a detailed cross-examination; then placed in a cell in one of the Casernes of Tripoli. There, for two days, nobody came to see me (I wasn't even allowed to go to a "C.O."). Then I was taken to a certain office where I was cross-examined another time and returned again to the same cell; three days later, I was taken to a cell in POLA BRIGATA Prison (the beginning of May 1940). Over a month later, Italy declared war and I was taken to a proper Concentration Camp, BNEHAT EL-ARUS, near Benghazi, Libya. There I met the interpreter of the British Consul in Tripoli and this is what he told me: "The British Consul received orders to arrange for your departure; he sent me to look for you where you lived - FUJIM SEYDA - ZAGHET PRISON, TRIPOLI, and there some people told me that they didn't know anything about you. On this, the Consul got in touch with the Mestura who told him that they didn't know where you were; further than that we didn't make any effort to find you".

This was what I understood from the interpreter (BILAL AL-ILBI BAH EL-BENT, TRIPOLI). But at that moment I was in prison, and surely the Mestura must have had notice of that. However, war was declared, and the Consul, who was the only person who could make an effort to liberate me, left Tripoli for good.

From BNEHAT EL-ARUS Concentration Camp I was transferred to Misurata Prison with 9 others, and from there to a Concentration Camp in Gargara, near Tripoli. In this last Camp, the American Embassy in Charge of British interests began to send me a monthly allowance of 300 lire. After a few weeks, I was taken with 8 others to a reparto

Internati Politici in Forta Sanito Prison, where I was taken at the start previous to the first Concentration Camp. Throughout I was completely cut off from my people, and I had to live entirely on the prison ration without any modification by outside excepting that sum of 200 lire which was often cut for as long as 2 months. The prison internment period was at the height of the N. S. raids on Tripoli - raids that often lasted from 8 p.m. to 4.30 a.m. and during which one Karsten night 12 bombs fell within the prison walls, one of these bombs, luckily a 15 pounder only, fell two meters from me. Then, in that prison, under those ghastly conditions of hunger, terror and discomfort, I wrote a petition to the Prefect of Tripoli demanding him to reconsider my situation; and either set me free as any British subject, or send me to a proper concentration camp in Italy.

(Now, as I understood, later in Italy, there was in Rome then, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, trying to attract young Oriental men around him.)

After that petition I remained nearly four months in prison, completing about nine months in all, exclusive of the first stay following my initial arrest. And from Forta Sanito prison I was taken with the rest to another Concentration Camp - Forti Sidi Abdol Karim in Sardinia. There I remained nearly nine months, when one night I was summoned to the Commandant's Office, then taken into a car and driven off to Gioia, an isolated village in Gebel Refuge. There I was put in the house of Kherbish. And three weeks later, I was taken back to Tripoli, whence I was flown to Rome under escort of two German soldiers of the Gestapo. Here in Rome we went directly to the Ministero dell'Interno, where I waited till the two policemen deposited their papers and then with one of them I went to a certain Villa Colonna, not to my surprise there I found one of the Grand Mufti.

Now the Mufti knew my father, as a matter of fact I knew him too well. For my father was a member of the National Party while practicing law in Palestine; then he founded the opposition to the Supreme Moslem Council of which the Grand Mufti was head. And in 1938 when he was proprietor of "Al Jamia al Islamiyyah" daily paper - Jaffa, important documents were brought to him by the hands of the Hashashibi family; these documents were mainly letters exchanged between the Grand Mufti and Prince F. KIB... concerning to advocate and foster Italian Government interests in the Near East; two days after, all the documents appeared on the front page of our paper, and the political existence of the Mufti was nearly knocked to date.

Now, the Grand Mufti and his men must have remembered these days; and when his secretary saw me, he was extremely very kind, he asked me what I was in need of, and if I could occasionally visit them in the Office. This forced visit, evidently, I could not decline, for then I had one day free and the other in the Concentration Camps. And these months I spent alone and I had no chance of getting at any British Office.

The Germans were strong here and I was carefully watched. Then came the fall of Fascism, and in the morning of the armistice all men of the Grand LXXXI managed to get across the frontier. Somehow before that they were heard talking to me to follow. However, I managed to evade, and they disappeared. The next morning I reported to the Swiss Legation. And later on, about some weeks after, I was called to the Ufficio Stranieri, and there was told that they had orders to have me leave for the North of Italy within a period of three days. But within that period I managed to find a temporary hiding place; I had to avoid staying in the same house two nights successively. That period of hiding crossed me to make a debt of more than 35 thousand lire to a certain Sig. LI OFAHA EL PLATANI. At times when no Italian family had the courage to take me in, and when I had sometimes to knock about between three houses and keep changing lodging until I nearly gave up dodging the Germans when the family of Colonel Giuseppe CAPUTO (who is actually with the Allied fighting forces) took me into their home. No. 466 Via SABOTINO, ROMA. And there I remained until the Allies' entry into Rome.

Ever since I have been sending letters to my people in the hope of receiving word from them after four years of anxiety void of a single news. While in order to avoid the growth of debt, I have taken over service with the U.S. Industry Sub-Commission until I am able to return home to HAZLI, Palestine.

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21.8.44.

EL FARUQI HANIM (30 int. 6, Via Niccordero, Cresioli Lande.)

(New Address: Presso Caputo 46, int. 6, via Sabotina)./

History. See attached account.

Information.

Father is Proff. Suliman fagi EL FARUQI.
Address - Habbah, Palestine.
All family and relations are in Palestine.

Actual date of birth - 17.7.18 (date given on passport - 20.5.16.)

He holds a Palestine passport No. 11316 issued in JERUSALEM -
17.1.39. Renewed on 10.1.44. by Swiss Legation in ROME. Valid
until 9.1.45.

He is of Moslem religion.

1939 - 40 Feb. In England, studying at Cambridge.
1940 - 43 June. Imprisoned in Tripoli on his return to Palestine
and interned.
1943 - 44 June. Brought to Italy - free confined and in hiding
until liberation.

Now. Working with Agriculture Sub-C, A.C.C.

Desire.

Desires to return to his parents in Palestine as soon as possible.

Note.

Has incurred considerable debts during his period of hiding in
Italy.

Before allied occupation he received a grant.